UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MALDIVES

Fisheries Development
(MDV/79/002)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	June 1979
Starting date of project activities:	August 1979
Planned completion date:	October 1980
To be executed by:	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)
Government implementing agencies:	Ministry of Fisheries and Ministry of Transport
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$279 700
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. The Maldives in the past developed an economy which was unique in that despite its many features of a true subsistence economy based on fisheries, it had developed an important international trade exporting fish products and importing consumer goods. Arable land is very limited due to the nature of the soil and rainfall patterns

*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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and although small amounts of food crops are grown on the islands, the Maldives imports virtually all major food staples other than fish. Before tourism and international shipping activities had developed to their present size, more than half of the national income came from fish production.

2. This project was proposed as the technical assistance component to a $3.2 million World Bank loan requested by the Maldives. The Government has set high priority on developing the fishing sector of Maldives, which is the main sector in the economy. By training fishermen in better fishing methods, introducing improved fishing vessels, and preparing a fish marketing and fuel distribution project, the project would directly assist the proposed Maldives Fisheries Project in modernizing and improving the country's fisheries.

II. Objectives and activities

3. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) train approximately 300 fishing vessel skippers and fishermen through one-week courses in improved unit catching techniques, vessel handling and fishing methods; (b) help to improve the design of existing motorized fishing vessels and assist in the improvement of two vessels to be used in the training programme; (c) design a "second generation" fishing vessel of traditional basic features and construction, assist in the construction of five prototypes and participate in local trials and demonstrations; (d) design a long-range (2-3 days' trip) fishing vessel, compatible in construction and design with present vessels, assist in the construction of one prototype and participate in trials and demonstrations; (e) assist in determining the exact locations for nine navigation lights and a limited number of reef markers, reef entrance markers and buoys; and (f) prepare an investment project for fish marketing, fuel distribution and further mechanization of the fishing fleet.

III. Inputs

4. UNDP will provide, through the Executing Agency, for: the services of a master fisherman, naval architect, navigational aids specialist, fish marketing and fuel distribution specialists, and an economist; and project-related equipment.

5. The Government will provide counterpart staff, secretarial and administrative assistance and office facilities.

IV. Financial data

6. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	$
Personnel	187 500
Equipment	87 800
Miscellaneous	4 400
	279 700

7. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of the inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $ 1,000 in kind.

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